

League and was recognized with Metropolitan Status by the American Symphony Orchestra League in 1968. The Women's Committee, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, was formed in 1957 to assist with fundraising. From 1972 to 1984 the orchestra's reputation continued to grow under the leadership of Daniel Lewis. The orchestra received several national awards, including five American Society of Composers and Publishers awards for adventuresome programming. Mr. Lewis also oversaw the founding of the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra which is considered one of the best youth orchestras in the world. Since 1984, Jorge Mester has brilliantly led the Pasadena Symphony Association, expanding the number of concerts per season and recording its first compact disc in 1994.

Beyond its musical achievements, the association admirably serves the community through educational outreach. Committed to making music accessible to the public, the symphony runs an admission-free Musical Circus for families with young children and offers Concerts and Lessons to Enrich Families (C.L.E.F.). Believing that music belongs in the classroom as well as the concert hall, the symphony partnered with Pasadena's public elementary schools to found Tempo!, a curriculum based program that has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts. Through the Mentor Program, in which middle and high school musicians can meet with Pasadena Symphony Association professionals and the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra, the symphony fosters our next generation of musicians.

It is my great pleasure to honor the Pasadena Symphony Association on its 80th anniversary. I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate, along with my remarkably diverse constituents, Hispanic Heritage Month. I am grateful that September 15th through October 15th has been set aside to commemorate the unique cultural legacy and the significant contributions that the diverse people of Hispanic descent have made to the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, this heritage is part and parcel of our shared American birthright. It is only fitting that we celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of the 43 million Hispanic Americans in this country, people who are making their mark in popular culture, business, athletics and politics. Theirs is the American Dream—a deep-seated belief that hard work can bring a better life and a brighter future for our children.

I wish to take this opportunity to honor some outstanding individuals living and working in the San Francisco Bay area. KQED, a nationally recognized public broadcaster, has named the following six outstanding individuals 2007 Latino Heritage Local Heroes. These hard-working citizens represent the best of both worlds—preserving their personal and family

heritage while contributing great things to the community we all share.

Cío Hernández has brought her language and leadership skills to the youth of Marin County. As the Bilingual Adolescent Mental Health Practitioner for Teen Clinic of Marin County Department of Health and Human Services, Cío is a youth group leader who inspires and motivates adolescents who want to make a difference in their community.

Martín Mora is a professional firefighter in the city of San Jose. In his 12 years with the San Jose Fire Department, he has promoted safety and awareness throughout the community. Additionally, Martín continues his family's legacy of dedicated volunteering by assisting children, women, and families in the Bay Area and Nicaragua.

Guillermo "Memo" Morantes is a longtime community volunteer in San Mateo County, with a special passion for education. As a member of the San Mateo County Board of Education, he continues the fight he has long been waging to provide all our children with the kind of quality education they deserve.

A Health and Nutrition teacher at Dover Elementary School in West Contra Costa County, Tony Ramirez imparts invaluable wisdom about healthy living and environmental preservation to our next generation of leaders. Tony has incorporated outdoors hands-on education into the curriculum, instilling the value of preserving natural habitats such as the local watershed, Wildcat Creek, and teaching students of their responsibility to maintain a healthy creek.

Mary Helen Rocha is another tireless advocate for children and families in our community. From bus monitor to den mother and Girl Scout leader, she has done it all, and currently works as Program Director for The Perinatal Council and coordinates the Antioch First 5 Center permanent facility, which serves families with children under 5 years of age.

As a master of the art of capoeira, a Brazilian martial arts and dance hybrid, Márcia Treidler, known to the arts community as Mestranda Márcia Cigarra, is working to spread hope and opportunity through the art form she loves. Márcia is the founder and Artistic Director of ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco (ACSF), which is dedicated to using capoeira as a vehicle to improve and enrich disadvantaged communities and the lives of people from all backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, it is not enough to celebrate this community one month out of every year. All of our Hispanic American friends and neighbors deserve the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their children. They are the driving force behind the efforts of this Democratic Congress to bring a new direction to America—the real people who benefit from progressive legislation like increases to the minimum wage and programs that make college more affordable.

Hispanic Heritage month is more than a cultural celebration, Madam Speaker, as vibrant and fascinating as that culture may be. It is an opportunity to see the children for whom we have just increased funding for math and science education, funding that will give all Americans a chance to compete in the global economy. It shines a spotlight on the citizens who lack adequate health care, despite working full time. Hispanic Heritage month is certainly about the past, Madam Speaker, and it is an honorable past worth remembering. Yet

this month, let us also look toward the future, and work toward building a better tomorrow for all American families.

HONORING HENRIETTA, COUNTESS DE HOERNLE'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Henrietta, Countess de Hoernle, as she celebrates her 95th birthday. She is one of the most distinguished and accomplished philanthropists in south Florida, and I am proud to recognize her impact on our community. Her record of service to those in need makes her a truly distinguished American.

During her lifetime, the Countess has worked tirelessly to support worthwhile causes benefiting young adults, the poor, the needy and the ill. She retains a personal philosophy of using her financial resources to help others, believing that she would like to see the "fruits of her labor" while she is able. She has been instrumental in advancing educational opportunities for the young, art and cultural opportunities for area residents, and medical opportunities for everyone. Currently, she serves on six boards in the Palm Beach area, including the boards of the Caldwell Theatre and the Boca Raton Museum of Art.

One of the first charitable efforts made by the Countess and her husband was to Boca Raton Community Hospital. Subsequently the Countess has worked in support of many health organizations, including the American Red Cross, Hospice, the Habilitation Center, and the Mae Volen Senior Center. The Countess then turned her attention to the needs of south Florida youth. The Countess has also been instrumental in helping the Haven, a facility providing a home for neglected and abused children, St. Joan of Arc School for its expansion and new library, the College of Boca Raton (now Lynn University) for its Lecture Hall, and Spanish River Community High School for a long-awaited theater.

Other organizations with which the Countess has been actively involved include the Association of Retarded Citizens, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, Arthritis Foundation, Boca Ballet Theatre, Boca Raton Historical Society, Boca Raton International Club, Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park, The Children's Museum, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Northwood University, Palm Beach Community College, The Palm Beach International Film Festival, Police Athletic League, United Way, the Youth Activity Center and ZONTA Club of Boca Raton. She has received awards from more than 230 charitable organizations and is universally recognized as a major philanthropist.

Henrietta, Countess de Hoernle enjoys being able to give a helping hand to all in need—believing that's what her life is all about. She sets an example for everyone in our community to follow, and I am proud to recognize her today on her 95th birthday.